



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
THE DIRECTOR

MAR 7 - 2005

Mr. Ben Johnson, Jr.
Chairman
Makah Tribal Council
P.O. Box 115
Neah Bay, Washington 98357

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for your letter transmitting the Makah Tribe's request for a waiver of the moratorium on taking marine mammals so that the Tribe may exercise its rights to hunt gray whales as secured in the Treaty of Neah Bay.

Your application and supporting material have been made available for public information on the Internet site of the Office of Protected Resources at the following address: <http://nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/>. My staff in the Northwest Regional Office and at headquarters is currently considering your request, and I anticipate a timely response.

If you have questions regarding your request and the process to consider it, please contact Donna Darm in the Northwest Regional Office (206) 526-4489 or Tom Eagle in the Office of Protected Resources (301) 713-2322, ext. 105.

I appreciate your interest in continuing your cultural traditions and look forward to your continued cooperation in the conservation of our Nation's living marine resources.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Lent

for William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.



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THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
FOR FISHERIES

